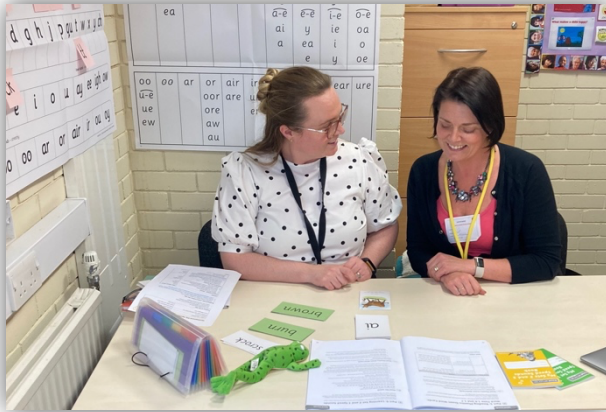


“I have never been happier at work. I enjoy supporting a range of schools; making a difference every day to make sure all children can read and make the best of their futures.”



Name: Helen Mather
Role: Consultant trainer
Region: North West England
Start date: September 2021

Reach more children, close the gap

I taught Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI) for several years as a teacher, reading leader and member of senior leadership team at an inner city school in Greater Manchester. The consultant trainers I met were knowledgeable, inspiring, and enthusiastic. I wanted to be part of an organisation that helps teach every child to read across my region, regardless of background, need or ability. After lockdown, I was even more motivated to close the reading gap and chose to apply for a role with Ruth Miskin Training (RMT). The application and interview process was respectful, inclusive, and exciting.

Comprehensive training builds a confident team

Training in London over six weeks was intensive, motivating and thorough. I quickly realised this was the job I was meant to do! The team made the new trainers feel welcome, included, and valued. We all had an opportunity to speak to Ruth Miskin too; she took time to get to know each new person. The 21 trainers had varied experiences. Our skills and experience were valued and the group have become close colleagues and friends.

Coaching for new trainers

I had a trainer coach for the first 18 months; we had weekly zoom meetings, joint in-school days and a training day together. She was always available with advice, supportive comments, and constructive targets. I blossomed and had a real zest for my role. I feel lucky to have benefitted from her guidance. Family and friends also remarked on my energy and enthusiasm!

Other members of the team I have worked with consistently show friendliness, warmth, and encouragement. They give me the confidence that I know what I am doing. Feedback is constructive and positive. They have a real ability to bring out the best in people.

Positive feedback is shared

I was thrilled to receive emails from directors of RMT, commenting on feedback they had heard from my mentors. Few organisations put this level of support into new staff. RMT is clearly a caring company.

Ongoing support and professional development

Every term, a coaching team review films of our teaching. This is a great way to keep us at the top of our game. I value their advice and take it on board. Some of our schools face challenges. Trainers meet half-termly online to scrutinise data and share best practice and actions to help schools go from strength to strength.

Well-being and communication matters

Termly catch-up meetings and team socials are a great way to stay connected. I hear regularly from RMT project leads; we discuss data, actions, insights and successes. I know who to reach out to if I need support.

Children's reading success is a true reward

The lightbulb moments I have when working with one-to-one tutors and children drives me to do more. These success stories, especially in special and secondary schools, are incredibly moving. This is a truly rewarding career.